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Musket

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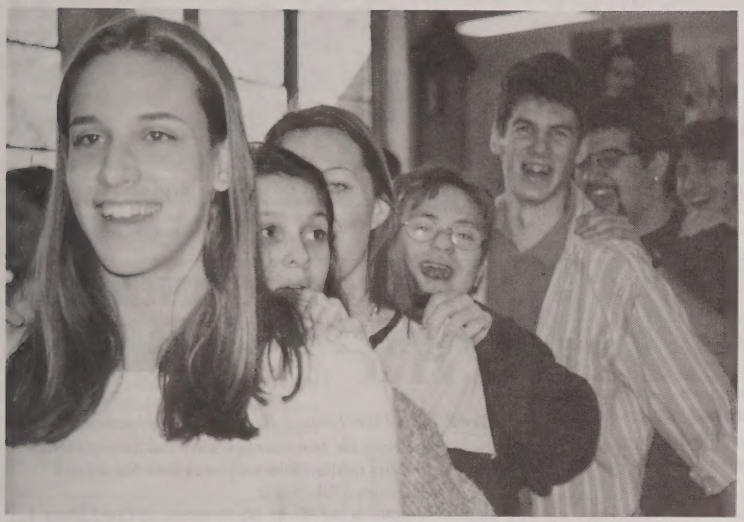

Chorus members Lisetts Silva, Becca Pressman, Sarah Green, Sholom Levy, Garrett Blair, Nader Ali-Hassan, and Jonah Mitropoulos warm-up their vocal cords.

-photo by Brent Murakami

Faculty Votes on Schedule for 1997-1998 School Year

"Model Four" incorporates minimal modifications

by Evan Harris

For those expecting major changes in the 1997-1998 schedule, the version selected will be a disappointment.

After the Principal's Instructional Council formulated six alternative schedule plans, the faculty voted by ballot to incorporate only minimal scheduling differences into next year's schedule.

The schedule selected, known as Model Four, lengthens the school day by five minutes for a release time of 2:30. It also incorporates a third lunch period, required to accommodate the burgeoning school population. The five-day schedule includes standard classes meeting on four out of five days, with a varying rotation of classes on each day.

"The intent was not to meet 990 hours, but to accommodate the growing school population and to create a good environment for learning and teaching."

-Principal Philip Lanoue

The new schedule also moves X-block from Friday to Thursday morning. Other than beginning each day with a different class, students may not even notice the difference between this year's and next year's schedule.

Some of the more daring alternatives developed by the Instructional Council included two-week rotating schedules with one week of traditional periods and one week of 70 minute periods; two-week rotating schedules with standard classes meeting for six traditional periods and one 85 minute period; and a one-week schedule with all 70 minute periods.

The schedule selected for next year does not include any extended periods.

When asked if the new schedule makes any progress in meeting the 990-hour minimum mandated by the State Board of Education, Principal Philip Lanoue responded, "The new schedule was targeted to include 860 to 870 hours, not really a

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Boys' tennis knocks off rival Winchester for 14-1 record. *Page 8.*

LHSMUN Holds First Conference

by David Ly

After months of preparation and hard work, the Lexington High School Model United Nations team, better known as LHSMUN, showed everyone on May 10 how to host the best conference.

Not only was the first annual Lexington High School Model U.N. conference a success, it also set a precedent for future conferences that will surely include more schools and more participants. Six schools from Massachusetts and Rhode Island

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Special Education Gets More Funds

Town Meeting Earmarks $269,000

by Kurt Kastorf

At a recent town meeting, Lexington granted $269,000 to the Lexington schools, earmarked for special education. The special education program, which has been running in the red, is trying to adopt a program to pay off its $409,000 deficit.

The Lexington special education program provides services to students with learning disabilities, ranging from minor problems such as poor reading skills to more serious learning impediments. The program hires teachers and aides who specialize in teaching students with disabilities; provides for occupational, physical, and speech therapy; purchases adaptive equipment for physically challenged students; and offers a resource room for students who want extra help.

Lexington's special education program is distinct from the LABBB program, which is a five-town collaborative whose purpose is to provide special education services to students with serious disabilities in an efficient and effective manner.

Enrollment in special education has increased during the past few years due to a larger number of students being diagnosed with special needs and an increase in the number of special education students moving to Lexington in search of better services. Although the program has established a freeze on money for supplies, such as text books and computer software, they have only been able to reduce their deficit by one-third.

Article 5 of the town meeting has established funds to pay for most of the deficit, but school officials continue to look for ways to reduce costs even further.

Rising costs for special education across the Commonwealth have led to calls for more drastic solutions. Many opponents of increased special education funding feel that parents are trying to have their children diagnosed with learning disabilities so that they receive special attention or additional services. This suspicion has led to demands for stricter systems of diagnosing students. However, making qualifications harder may eliminate services to some students who are in great need of assistance.

A possible solution, commented some LHS students, would be the implementation of an extremely detailed diagnostic system. This would allow the special education program to allocate goods and services based on specifically defined needs.

Maintaining the effectiveness of the special education program over time will likely require a large budget. This is not necessarily a problem if creative solutions are implemented, commented some.

Model UN member Allen Riddell researches diligently for the upcoming conference.

-photo by David Ly

LHS Senate Continues C.R.U.D. Day Tradition

by Ami Karkar

Friday, May 9th, the LHS Student/Faculty Senate sponsored the annual school-wide Clean Rubbish Up Day (C.R.U.D.) during X-block. Since the first C.R.U.D. Day in 1995, this event has become a LHS tradition.

Volunteers cleaned the outdoor areas that are frequently used and frequently littered. After all the poster and announcement advertising, students and faculty gathered at the flagpole at 7:45 throughout X-Block to get garbage bags and pokers. People spread out across campus, trying to recruit more volunteers for their cause.

Given the dreary weather and early date of C.R.U.D. Day, the day is considered to have been quite a success by many people. Many people who were walking by cleaners chipped in and stayed to help out. The lunch areas and the smoking corner seemed to be the most popular places that needed cleaning. Students walking by were amazed at the filth that was evident at the corner.

Many freshmen were surprised at the "small" turnout. "There was barely anybody doing C.R.U.D. Day," commented senator Kay-true Ting. That is not a surprising answer from people new to C.R.U.D. because last year that is how many freshmen felt also. However, considering that it was not at the end of the day and sunny, the turnout was almost equal or greater to last year's. There were many teachers trying to get the "nonbiodegradable" litter out of there. People were bending, getting their hands muddy, and working hard. Some student said to a senator, "Would you do this if you were not a Senator—if you did not have to?"

With the number of people and the amount of time that people were there, much was accomplished at the corner and the other grounds. Litter was discovered quite deep in the woods of the grounds. Objects encountered included a shoe, sports equipment, cans, and bags. Years of garbage was deep in the ground and hardly noticeable.

Deep in thought, senior Betsy O'Neill mulls over a particularly interesting problem.

-photo courtesy of LHS Yearbook

News Briefs

LHS STUDENTS WIN BIG AT STATE SCIENCE FAIR

During the weekend of May 2 to May 3, over 200 high school students converged at MIT to participate in the 1997 Massachusetts State Science Fair. The 15 LHS students who qualified for the fair all placed. Senior Yea-Tyng Tang won the W. R. Grace Award, the top prize in the MA State Science Fair.

Congratulations also to the following participants, who all won awards at the fair: Elisabeth Bobrow, Tovah Day, Radu Istrate, Felicia Kuo, Caroline Lee, Jason LeeKeenan, Sarah Park, David Rosner, Jeremy Silber, Sonya Taaffe, Erik Wang, Ken Weinstein, and Michal Zilberman.

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Jazz Nite 4 will highlight the jazz improv classes and Jazz Combo. The free concert is at 7:30 PM on May 28.

"Monster" Mike Welch will perform at the Diamond Middle School auditorium on May 31. Tickets are $5; proceeds will benefit the LHS Music Department.

LHS' *a capella* groups will give their final concert at the Spring Jamboree, on June 6 at 8:00 PM. Five O'Clock Shadow, a professional group, will also perform. Tickets will be $3.

On June 7 at 8:00 PM, the LHS Jazz Combo, Dance Company, Improv Troupe, and other groups will perform in the Pre-Grad Performing Arts Fling. Tickets are $3.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS INDUCTED

On April 30, members of the LHS National Honor Society were inducted in a special ceremony. At least 30 hours of community service were required for induction. Social studies teacher Richard Kollen was the faculty speaker. There was also a brief candlelight ceremony, followed by the signing of the register.

LHS TEACHER TO BE HONORED AT WHITE HOUSE

Congratulations to English teacher Anne Sanderson, who was named a Distinguished Teacher by the Presidential Scholars program. She will receive a plaque in a special ceremony at the White House.

LHS POPS CONCERT

MAY 22 AND 23, 7:30 PM

Tickets are $5.

Band: *A Civil War Fantasy, La Virgen de la Macerena, A View From the Mountaintop, Stars and Stripes Forever*
Chorus: Beatles medley, selected pieces from *Schindler's List,* assorted folk music
Jazz Ensemble: *In the Mood, My Romance, It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing*
Orchestra: Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*, Kabalevsky's *Violin Concerto*, Anderson's *Fiddle Faddle, Star Trek Through the Years*
Wind Ensemble: *Country Gardens, Amazing Grace*

SENATE ATTENDANCE 1997-1998

In accordance with informed election procedures instituted by the Lexington High School Student-Faculty Senate, each year the Musket publishes Senate attendance records in the May issue. It is the responsibility of all Senators to attend all X-block meetings and to inform the Secretary when they can not attend due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances. The number following each of the names below indicated each Senator's TOTAL number of absences for the February 7 to May 2 session. The parenthetical notes indicate how many of those absences were excused by the Secretary.

Class of 2000: Courtney Benson, 0; Meredith Carlisle, 2 (2 excused); Dan Chamberlain, 1; Adam Coffin, 1; Aaron Edelstein, 1; Katherine Merseth, 3; Liz Neumann, 0; Kaytrue Ting, 0.
Class of 1999: Jonathan Amar, 1; Abbe Barg, 0; Taylor Carroll, 2; Claire Cuno, 1; Jason Hirschhorn, 2; Ami Karkar, 1; Heidi Manschreck, 0.
Class of 1998: Tim Attanucci, 0; Andrew Bechtel, 0; Teddy Ben Harav, 1; Caroline Kim, 1 (1 excused); Alice Lin, 1; Chris Van Nostrand, 2.
Class of 1997: Jack Hamilton, 2 (1 excused); Jesse Herman, 5; Jake Kissel, 2; Bob Maclean, 3; Robin McManus, 3 (1 excused); Alissa Roeder, 2 (2 excused); Sarah Schlein, 2 (1 excused).
Faculty: David Buchanan, 0; Wendy Cordero, 0; Michael Fiveash, 0; Karen Girondel, 0; Kevin Kelly, 2; Laura Lasa, 0; Eleanor Moakley, 0; Les Phillip, 5; Michael Thibodeau, 0; Jerusha Vogel, 0.

-compiled by Alissa Roeder

Freshman trumpeter Kenny Jones toots his horn.

-photo courtesy of LHS Yearbook

Schedule Unrelated to "990"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

change from last year. The intent was not to meet the 990 hours, but to accommodate the growing school population and to create a good environment for learning and teaching."

Lanoue continues, suggesting that achieving the 990 hour minimum would require some fairly drastic changes, none of which necessarily would improve the value of an LHS education. "It's a matter of simple mathematics. Even with one longer block within the school day, we would only get approximately 890 hours. Adding one week to the school year adds another 23 hours. Adding ten minutes to every school day adds 24 hours."

He adds, "So you can see, to increase the current program to 990 hours [an increase of about 120 hours] we would have to do something as drastic as increasing the school day by 45 minutes, or extending the year by several weeks."

"It's a matter of simple mathematics. Even with one longer block within the school day, we would only get approximately 890 hours."

-Principal Philip Lanoue

There are other, more creative ways to achieve the 990 hour requirement, as well as to introduce a more innovate learning environment, suggests Lanoue. For example, he suggests that taking a look at some of the "pieces" outside the traditional classroom schedule might yield additional hours. "We might also consider having freshmen and sophomores on traditional schedules, and juniors and seniors on a schedule with longer periods. The student body could operate on a number of different schedules at one time," he offers.

While this year's experiment with 90-minute blocks did not produce any immediate effects, Lanoue maintained that much was learned from the half-year experiment, and the professional staff is considering further experimentation with longer periods. However, he concluded, "I had hoped that at this point we might be at a different place."

Model UN Holds First Conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and more than 80 delegates, including one from Indiana, attended the one day conference.

The day began with a speech by guest speaker David Ottaway, a reporter stationed in Bosnia for the Washington Post. Students then were placed into two committees: the Security Council and the Food and Agricultural Organization.

The Security Council, run by seniors Carey Schwaber and Josh Coffin, discussed the issue of the Diaoyu Islands. The Food and Agricultural Organization, led by seniors Jessica Carlisle and David Ly, dealt with the worldwide availability of freshwater. The delegates were provided with a forum similar to the real UN. Hence, there was a lot of bickering and compromising, but both committees passed resolutions after a long day of tiresome work. "I'm glad that we did this, but I'm glad it's over too," said an exhausted Carey Schwaber. "The world's problems were not solved in one day, but students were able to share their ideas on topics with broad scopes."

At the end of the day, awards were presented to the best delegate and best novice delegate in each committee. Overall, besides cold pizza from an unnamed place located on Marrett Road, the conference went very well.

"Keeping in mind that this was the first conference that we have ever held here at LHS, the results were amazing," explained senior Ali Kraley, who was Undersecretary General for Administrative Affairs.

"I'm glad we did this, but I'm glad it's over too. The world's problems were not solved in one day, but students were able to share their ideas on topics with broad scopes."

-Senior Carey Schwaber

LHSMUN was started in 1994 by social studies teacher and faculty advisor Deborah Johnston, who participated in numerous conferences herself in high school and college. Model UN'ers take the positions of countries and debate about international issues from that country's perspective. Students use parliamentary procedure and write resolutions similar to those of the actual United Nations.

From the start, Lexington has done well. Students have attended conferences at Harvard; University of Chicago; University of Pennsylvania; New York, NY; Malden, MA; Shrewsbury, MA; and South Kingstown, RI. For the seniors, who have been involved since the beginning, this year was especially gratifying.

"I'm glad that I can say that I was involved with the very first conference," said Carlisle. "I love having power!"

"It was an educating, exciting, and enjoyable conference for everyone," added Johnston. "We wanted to put on the most professional and sophisticated conference. The staff was terrific, and they were the ones who made this entirely student run conference possible."

Sophomore Model United Nations member Aaron Joslow delivers a speech at the Lexington High School Model United Nations conference.

-photo by Deborah Johnston

"Crackers" and Cheese Fill LHS Stage in Spring Musical

by Aaron Bonner-Jackson

Have you heard the joke about shooting an elephant in your pajamas? ("How she got in my pajamas I don't know.") Had you been in the Donald J. Gillespie, Jr. Auditorium on May 8, 9, or 10, you would have heard this and many other classic knee-slappers form the hilarious Marx Brothers farce, "Animal Crackers."

Set in Long Island in the late 1920s, "Animal Crackers" pokes fun at nearly every aspect of high society and culture that existed during that time period, from art to falling in love to playing bridge. The wealthy hosts and party-goers are continuously mocked by Captain Spaulding, The Professor, Emanual Ravelli, and Horatio Jamison (a group otherwise known as the four Marx Brothers), who both thrill and appall the onlookers with their pranks and wisecracks.

The show also ridicules the extravagant musicals and shows that were produced in the early twentieth century. Musical numbers such as "Why Am I So Romantic" and "Watching the Clouds Roll By" seem to ooze cheese from every pore, with rainbows, fountains, cloud costumes, and even the occasional pink fairy.

The usual cast of characters, a bunch of Marx brothers themselves, produced and directed the show: drama instructor Steven Bogart, band director Jeffrey Leonard, choral conductor Brian O'Connell, and choreographers Anne Carey and Marianne Kubik. Also bringing the production to its hilarious and remarkably well-organized end were assistant director Cristina "Charlie" Chapman and stage manager Erin Wood.

"['Animal Crackers'] was a blast. It was a great completion to my senior year."

-Senior Nader Ali-Hassan

The reaction to "Animal Crackers" was quite favorable. The Friday and Saturday evening performances were almost full, giving a festive atmosphere to the event. Some audience members returned again and again to witness the energetic performances given by all of the actors, musicians, and technical personnel. This may have been due to the fact that the show was slightly different every single night, resulting in a spontaneous and playful mood that was felt by audience members and actors alike.

The cast was sorry to see the show end. "It was a blast," screamed senior Nader Ali-Hassan. "It was a great completion to my senior year." This, of course, was before Nader realized that he would be repeating senior year due to his attempt to shave Mr. Brown's mustache in the middle of class. "That was NOT a hoot," commented Brown.

Though very different in content and style than many of the past Lexington High School musicals, "Animal Crackers" was quite successful, drawing large crowds with a spirited performance each night. Ideas of taking it on tour are still being considered.

Senior, National Honor Society member, and Model United Nations member Carey Schwaber grimaces upon tasting her dinner.

-photo by Deborah Johnston

NHS Hosts Blood Drive

by Sarah Chandler

On Friday, April 4, Lexington High School held its annual LHS Blood Drive. Sponsored by the National Honor Society and co-chairs Sarah Chandler and Yea-Tyng Tang, the blood drive of 1997 was truly a day to remember.

As the April date approached, members of NHS made posters and hung them up around the school trying to spark the school's interest in the upcoming drive. Although it is a hard task to convince 17 and 18 year olds to give up an hour of their precious time, let alone a pint of their blood, the volunteers achieved record levels of donor recruitment.

As an added incentive, English teacher Dr. Richard Shohet and student teacher Alison Mizoguchi offered an "A for the day" to any student who donated blood or volunteered at the blood drive.

The volunteers presented convincing statistics, such as the fact that 80% of people will be in need of a blood donation by the time they reach the age of 72, and that a single unit of donated blood can help at least two or three patients, to convince to donors of the positive contributions they would be making. Each unit of blood is split into three parts: blood, plasma, and platelets.

With a record number of donors, LHS made blood drive history. Over 60 students and just under 10 teachers donated blood, more than the past two years combined! Because approximately 1/4 of blood collected in New England is donated by high school and college students, LHS' contribution will be a tremendous asset for the American Red Cross Blood Services New England Region.

Volunteer nurses took temperatures and performed preliminary check-ups on all volunteers, to ensure that the participants were healthy enough to donate usable blood. Band director Jeffrey Leonard was turned away, because he had a cold.

The National Honor Society would like to thank all who donated, including Principal Lanoue. Each donation is sincerely appreciated. In addition, anyone who donated is eligible for one hour of community service; contact Ms. Lande if you are interested. Additional thanks go out to volunteers Jessica Carlisle, Christine Chiou, Tom Passarini, Carey Schwaber, Liesje Spaepen, and Emily Sterzin, who put in extra time.

If you missed the drive or are interested in donating again, please contact Pam Leach of American Red Cross at (800) 258-0025 x2099 for information about upcoming blood drives.

Parking Policy Ignores Faculty

The recent implementation of stiffer penalties for violations of school parking policy seems to be less than even-handed. The new enforcement policy deals only with student violations of the parking code; faculty violations of said code continue to be almost entirely ignored.

At the very back of the "main" or "faculty" parking lot is a row of spots reserved for students. Similarly, the very first row of the "student" parking lot is reserved for faculty members. This system makes sense for both students and faculty. It is inconvenient to park in one parking lot when one's first and last classes are located right next to the other parking lot.

As this is often the case, these reserved rows fill up quickly. When there are no spots in the student row of the faculty parking lot, students are forced to park in an inconvenient location and hike across campus. Should a student illegally park in one of the other faculty parking lot spots, his car may be ticketed, his open campus privileges may be suspended, he may be permanently banned from any school lot, and his car may be towed at his own expense.

However, when there are no spots in the faculty row of the student parking lot, teachers and staff are free to illegally park in one of the other student parking lot spots. Faculty cars are rarely, if ever, ticketed for any violations of the school parking code. If ticketed, faculty can rest assured that the new enforcement policies will not be applied to them.

The recent implementation of stiffer penalties for violations of school parking policy seems to be less than even-handed. The new enforcement policy deals only with student violations of the parking code; faculty violations of said code continue to be almost entirely ignored.

The results of the uneven enforcement of the school parking code are evident. The student parking lot overflows even without faculty member's illicit parking; faculty's flagrant disregard for the parking code only exacerbates the problem. The faculty parking lot remains sparsely populated primarily because faculty members are, in effect, permitted to park wherever it is convenient. It is ridiculous that students should be forced to park on Worthen Road, while faculty vehicles fill the student parking lot and the faculty parking lot remains essentially empty.

School parking policy is inherently biased in favor of faculty: all faculty members are guaranteed parking, while students are forced to struggle each day for one of the few available student parking spots. When the enforcement of this policy is also biased in this direction, the scale only tips further in favor of the teachers and staff.

-Carey Schwaber

BE A WRITING WORKSHOP EDITOR!

Applications are located in the library and the yearbook room. They are due June 11. If you have any questions, see Melissa Chu, Elaine Lin, Sarah Park, or Matt Saradjian.

Senior Slump Strikes the Musket Cartoonist...
Hey! My legs don't even attach to my body! That's OK. I'll just say something witty and pretend I made it up.
Kiss more ice cream! Eat more Babies!*
* often attributed to the legendary pete Holmes.

A Plea from Speed Scrabblers

On the historic date of March 12, playing speed scrabble was banned in the student library. One might ask why this truly wholesome, even educational game would not be allowed. The answer to this question still eludes supporters of speed scrabble.

Speed scrabble became very popular at the beginning of this year. This word game requires plain old scrabble tiles, a large vocabulary, and a quick hand. Seniors who suddenly found themselves with extra time on their hands quickly picked up on this addicting game and pulled out the scrabble tiles every chance possible. As the weather improved, the flagpole soon became the speed scrabble arena. But when the weather was lousy, where did the speed scrabblers go? To the library, of course.

Of course, the library is a place to study, but a quiet education activity such as this should not be discouraged, given the other ways that students could be using their time. The speed scrabblers of LHS ask the librarians to reconsider their decision.

At first, this was not a problem. The librarians grew curious as to the purpose of the small tiles with the letters on them, but they allowed the game and even joined in on occasion. The game players were quiet and most often in deep thought as to how they were going to fit that 'Q' in or what word they could possibly make out of I, K, P, Q, V, W, E, A, X, and N.

As senior Jessica Carlisle states, "Speed scrabble is an innocuous, wholesome game." How could the librarians have it in their hearts to ban this pastime? Of course, the library is a place to study, but a quiet, educational activity such as this should not be discouraged, given the other ways that students could be using their time. The speed scrabblers of LHS ask the librarians to reconsider their decision. Bring speed scrabble back to the student library!

-Alison Kraley

Musket

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Cartoonist ..... Eric Rosenbaum

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Schedule Adopted Too Hastily: Changes Do Not Solve Problems

The 1997-98 schedule recently approved by a faculty vote needs further revision. Although block lengths are similar to those we have now, the proposed schedule, Model 4, includes several changes: The block order is significantly different, X-block is Thursday morning beginning at 7:30, last block may end at 2:30 instead of 2:25, all blocks end on a multiple of 5 or 10, and the school day includes three lunches.

Model 4 was adopted in too much haste. Originally part of a two-week rotating schedule, it was never meant to stand alone. The LHS Scheduling Committee should be given an opportunity to revise it and present it again for faculty approval.

While all of these changes are intended to address problems with our current schedule, many of them are not ideal solutions. Some teachers have voiced concern over A block always coming at the beginning of the day, but the new schedule over-compensates for this problem. The location of A block in the new schedule varies so greatly that it may cause trouble for part time teachers who leave after the first few blocks. The shifting of early morning blocks has also resulted in some afternoon blocks occurring at the same time each day, negating the benefits of increased variance in block structure.

X-block should be fully incorporated into the school day instead of beginning before the normal starting time. One of the purposes of the block is to allow students who can not stay after school or come early to participate in senate and other activities. If senators must be able to come early each Thursday, this benefit is wasted.

Three lunches is an innovative idea that may help reduce crowds and lines during lunch, however the current plan needs some modification. Designing schedules that incorporate three lunches may be difficult. More notably, it is possible under the proposed schedule to have lunch at 10:10 one day and at 1:00 the next, a difference of almost three hours. Such a varied eating schedule is both unpleasant and unhealthy, and may cause serious problems for people with diabetes or eating disorders.

Model 4 was adopted in too much haste. Originally part of a two week rotating schedule, it was never meant to stand alone. The LHS Scheduling Committee should be given an opportunity to revise it and present it again for faculty approval. The administration and the Principal's Instructional Committee should engage in more open communication with both students and faculty. Because neither group has been clearly informed of the goals of schedule restructuring, little has been accomplished. The teachers have found no reason to favor significant change, while the students feel their opinions regarding the schedule have been ignored completely.

-Kurt Kastorf

Finals Unneeded for Those Who Take Advanced Placement Tests

Final exams are important tools for teachers. They encourage long-term memorization of facts and concepts, rather than last-minute cramming. Final exams also serve a practical purpose: they force students to pay attention in class until the end of the year.

Advanced Placement exams, given by the College Board, also achieve these goals. However, they have added benefits.

The Advanced Placement program allows students to place out of college classes while in high school. It can save thousands of dollars for families and allows students to take more electives in college. AP exams also allow for advanced placement in classes, as the name suggests. This allows students to start a second year course in a foreign language or take vector calculus during freshman year. APs create more room for courses and by saving money.

Final exams can not give college credit. Finals, though intended to promote long-term memorization, usually dissolve into last-minute cramming events and desperate calculations of the lowest grade needed on the final to pass the course. Finals do not motivate any students to study any more than usual.

Advanced Placement exams require more effort than a final exam. APs often cover large amounts of interconnected information that you cannot cram the night before the exam. In this way, APs promote better study habits. In addition, the added pressure of an AP, a single grade that could allow one to skip an introductory college course, makes students work harder to succeed.

As June approaches and seniors prepare to graduate, the inevitable struggle between teachers and students begins. No student, especially a senior, is going to be excited about finals. Many students have just taken APs, and are exhausted from studying. Their desire to take such a difficult test, and the studying they do for it, should exempt them from taking finals.

The exemption would be an added incentive to take Advanced Placement tests. The AP program creates college level classes that teach students how to survive a college course before they are in college. It allows students to place out of introductory college courses, so that parents need not waste money on college classes that teach material a student has already learned.

Much of the material covered on an AP exam is covered in the class final. APs are usually more difficult and comprehensive. Students who take AP exams should be rewarded with an exemption from the equivalent final. The AP is a challenge and achieves what the final hopes to achieve, and more. Encouraging the program and eliminating finals for obviously motivated students is a policy that would help the school and the greater Lexington community. A policy to exempt students who take Advanced Placement tests from taking finals is something Lexington High School should consider.

-Jessica Carlisle

Dave and Dave

Dave and I have noticed that this year, and in years past, the senior pranks are woefully deficient in some certain quality; they lack the zest, the verve, and other stuff too. Example:

Prankster: Hey, look, the doors are locked!
Dave: Wow! You're a grade-A prankster!

Here at Dave and Dave headquarters (in a bomb shelter outside Madison, Wisconsin) quite frankly, we are amazed at the ingenuity, the depth of planning and the sheer genius of pranks such as these. Ha! we're only kidding of course; these pranks suck.

So we offer some idea of our own, pranks that really are bursting with verve. In narrowing down the field of possible pranks to a few choices we first had to discard all the pranks that were just plain technically impossible. No replacing the senior quad with a bottomless pit. No painting the roof of the field house to look like a sesame seed bun and the walls to look like a giant burger. And we had to toss out Dave's favorite prank: to switch the ABC and DEF buildings and see how long it takes people to figure it out (311 becomes 411, giving us Theology in French; maybe we'd even end up with British Literature in Spanish.)

So without the technically impossible pranks, we were left with a greatly reduced field. Convenience also forced us to not consider the overly dangerous or destructive pranks. So we couldn't, say, execute every third member of the junior class (lucky for you, Sarah Park). Nor could we write our names in flaming gasoline across the floor of J-caf. And, though it was disappointing to rule these options out, we have moral standards to uphold, that and the fact that the Massachusetts courts can now put us on trail as adults.

Animal pranks have long been popular, but none of them have ever had the subtle je ne sais quoi of a cattle stampede down the main hall from H-caf to the main quad. Imagine it:

Student 1: What's that rumbling?
Student 2: Can't be thunder; it's a clear day
Cow: Moo!

Careful consideration of the prank rules it out, after all, where are we going to find a herd of cattle for a reasonable price this time of year?

Finally, there are the pranks which would just take too much time and effort to put into action. Take for example, substituting the "Big Brother/Big Sister" program for a day with the "Big Inmate" program. Convicts from prisons around the state would come and keep the school kids of Lexington company. The children could learn such exciting trades as income tax evasion, breaking and entering, or how to survive gang warfare. The Big Inmate program works beautifully on paper, but the logistics are a nightmare.

We've got to admit that the perfect senior prank is a hard thing to come up with. And all of our ideas were pretty much ruled out on either moral or ethical grounds. I guess our imaginations just weren't up to the task. On the other hand, if you can find some cattle, get in touch with us.

Hey Kids! The Dave and Dave Senior Prank Challenge:

Do the perfect senior prank and Dave will personally give you a fantastic (plastic) grand prize. There's already one prank in the running, but there's still time in the year. So get out there and prankify!

-Dave and Dave

Be a Tour Guide

Students 14 years and older can be tour guides on the Battle Green. Hours are flexible. Training programs are available. After passing oral and written exams, guides will be issued official licenses by the Board of Selectmen.

Any interested students may pick up an application form at the Visitors Centre, 1875 Massachusetts Avenue, or may call S. Lawrence Whipple, Director of Guides, at 862-0626 for more complete information.

Limousine Service

G'Vanni's Restaurant

"Our complimentary limousine service eliminates the hassle of hiring an expensive limousine service for your prom night. We pick up you at your home, take you to the restaurant for dinner, bring you to the prom, and then bring you back home. Now you can buy more flowers for your date."
--Jeff Karl, owner, G'Vanni's Restaurant

For more information, contact Bonnie Wong at (617) 247-4112.

G'Vanni's restaurant is located at 115 Newbury Street, Boston, MA. It is open daily from noon to 1:00 AM.

Counselor-in-Training Positions Available

The Kendall Center for the Arts will hold a Vacation Arts Camp from July 7 - August 22. Gain work experience, enhance a resume, and make a little money.

If you have any questions, contact Catherine McCulloch, Educational Director, Kendall Center for the Arts at (617) 489-4090.

Bienvenido a Espana

by Karen Choi

You wake up one morning and realize that you're not in your own bed anymore. Looking out the window, you notice that the landscape has changed considerably. Then you walk downstairs. An eerie feeling sets in: everyone's speaking a different language. Have you been abducted by aliens? Will you be seeing little greenish-grey men in your near future?

No, you will not. The fourth annual Lexington High School Spanish Exchange took place April 4 through April 24. Participating students, in addition to being currently enrolled in an LHS Spanish course, had to fill out an application form and attend an interivew. Interviewers then checked with the students' teachers to ensure that the students were capable of making up two weeks' worth of school work. Ten people participated in the Spanish Exchange:

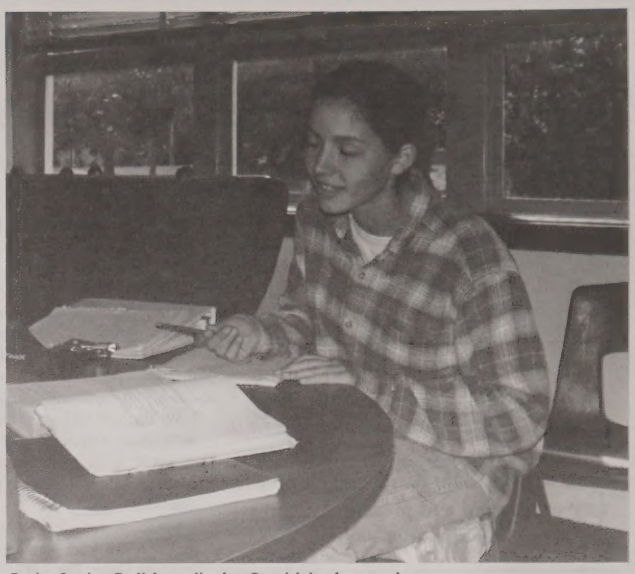
After arriving in Albacete, Spain, the students and chaperones visited places such as the Museum of Albacete, the mayor's office, and bullfighting school. The students spent one week of the three-week trip touring Spain and the remaining two weeks in Albacete with the host families. During their week of touring, the students enjoyed the famous museum, El Prado, the National Palace in Madrid, and the cathedrals and historic buildings in Segovia, Caceres, Merida, Huelva, Sevilla, Cordoba, and Granada.

When the students were not touring, they stayed with their host families in Albacete. With their Spanish "hermanos" and "hermanas," or brothers and sisters, the exchange students attended school and absorbed the Spanish culture. While in school, the LHS students presented information about American culture to the school's English classes.

The exchange students stayed primarily with their hosts, although they did gather with the other Americans for special group activities. Since Spanish was the only language spoken during the exchange, students had ample opportunity to practice their pronunciation and learn more vocabulary.

The teachers in charge of the exchange trip, Spanish teacher Shadbegian and French teacher Ferlinz, both agreed that the trip gave students a better understanding about different cultures. Students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Spanish language and culture, perhaps learning more than they could have by just sitting in a classroom.

The Spanish exchange has been a tradition at Lexington High School for many years. Senior Lawrence Randolph, a student in Honors Spanish V, was a participant in the exchange two years ago. He enjoyed his experience very much, and went as a non-official exchange student with the other LHS participants to visit friends in Spain that he had made on his last exchange trip. Said Randolph, "There are very strong connections between the LHS students and the Spanish students."



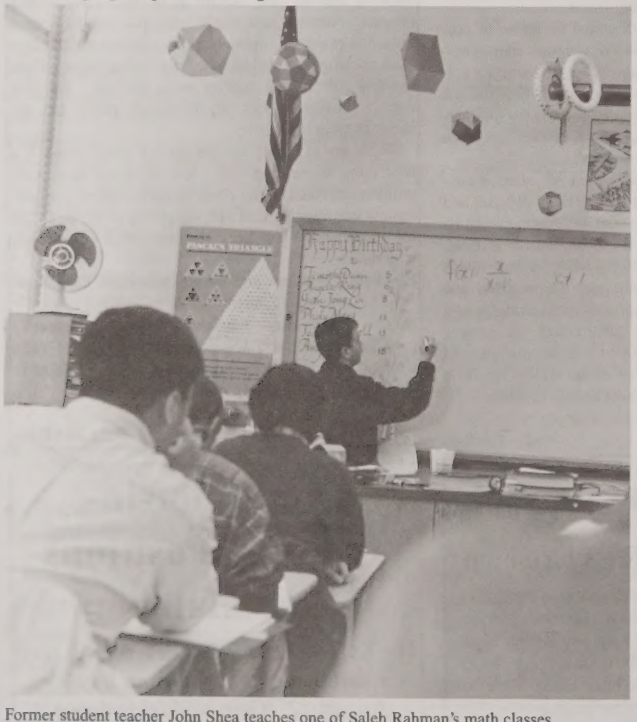
Senior Jessica Carlisle studies her Spanish book every day.

-photo by Dan Myung

Student Teachers Bring Youth, Spunk, and Free Cake to LHS

by Caroline Loomis

Imagine this: You enter history class with a smile on your face, ready to learn. You sit down at your desk, and open your book, being the good doobie you are. The bell rings, and your teacher is nowhere in sight. You glance around — where could she be? Wait! Is that her? Slumped in the back of the classroom? What's going on? You turn to the front of the room again, and there stands a young man, grinning eagerly and gripping a brand new lesson plan. Are you in Heaven or in Hell? You have yet to find out. For now, all you know is that you have entered...the Student Teacher Zone.



Former student teacher John Shea teaches one of Saleh Rahman's math classes.

-photo by Mike Chen

Student teachers are the grab bag in education. The student teacher benefits from the required experience. He or she learns what it is really like to teach, what it takes, and whether or not it is appropriate. The would-be teacher learns all these things as a student teacher. What, however, do the students learn? The answer to this question varies with each student teacher and with class member.

For some, a student teacher is a blessing.

"Sometimes a student teacher is a welcome change, but...it's annoying to have to adjust mid-year to a new style and a new grading system...unless you get a good one, or an easy grader!

-Junior
Carolyn Shank

Junior Sarah Appleby pointed out that "a young graduate student can add youthful idealism to a formerly dull and repressive classroom. They can really give you a break from the 'same old-same old', and if you're lucky they'll teach your normal teacher a thing or two." A student teacher, it seems, can make life wonderful for someone who has been spending class time hoping that the teacher would just disappear. In these cases, a student teacher can bring a much needed breath of fresh air to the classroom. In fact, sometimes a student teacher is full of wonderful ideas and a new way of viewing things that can completely change a student's opinion of the subject.

Of course, as in life, any given student may not 'click' with his or her student teacher. Maybe the student teacher does not have the same depth of understanding that the experienced teacher has, or maybe the student teacher is just plain bad. Or maybe the student just liked the old teacher better. Whatever it is, some student teachers can cause students to celebrate ecstatically when the going-away party finally comes around (not to mention trying to get free cake out of science class).

One point that students seemed to take interest in was the question of curriculum. Should a student teacher bring a radical change in direction to the classroom, or should he continue the original teacher's path? Many student teachers, especially in English classes, choose to teach something that they have a passion for, as long as it somehow relates to the curriculum. Sometimes, however, the link is too vague. Junior Laili Kafi decided that "it's okay when they teach their own stuff, but it should be a mix." She said that it should correspond with the regular curriculum. Other students seem to agree with this view.

Carolyn Shank summed up the student's view of student teachers when she said, "Sometimes a student teacher is a welcome change, but it seems like they always take over for the best teachers. It's annoying to have to adjust mid-year to a new style and a new grading system just when you're getting used to the first teacher." She then amended her previous statement: "That is, unless you get a good one, or an easy grader!"

Important Dates for Seniors

May 27: Senior Awards Night, 7:30 PM, LHS Auditorium
May 29: last day of class
May 30: Social studies final (B, F); Science final (H, G)
June 2: Foreign language final (C, E); English final (G, H)
June 3: Math final (B, C); second foreign language final (F, E)
June 4: Graduation breakfast, 8:00 AM, Senior Quad; Graduation rehearsal, 9:00 AM, gym
June 5: Graduation rehearsal, 9:00 AM, gym; Senior prom, 6:00 PM, Boston Park Plaza
June 6: Graduation rehearsal if necessary, 9:00 AM; gym
June 8: Graduation, 2:00 PM, Football Field; All-Night Graduation Party; 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM; LHS

Attendance at all graduation rehearsals is mandatory. Graduation will be held in the gymnasium if it is raining.

Girls' Lacrosse Levels Undefeated Needham

by Jason Hirschhorn

Despite losing two heartbreakers to Wellesley and Winchester, the Lexington girls varsity lacrosse team bounced back with a win against formerly undefeated Needham.

After the 9-7 loss to Wellesley and the 12-11 loss to the Sachems, 'Maids coach Ellen Vera reminded her critics, "At this point we're still 4-1 in our division (tied with Winchester for tops among the Middlesex League) and 8-4 overall. This is a remarkable accomplishment after we graduated 13 seniors and 9 starters. Some of these loses can be attributed to the fact that we have players who played JV last year and just need game time experience to get better."

The underclassmen certainly responded in a May 8th out of league contest against powerful Needham, edging out a hard earned victory, 9-8. Combining a poised offensive attack with a defense that made stops at all the right times, Lexington won an exciting game in which neither team dominated.

"[There was an] incredibly strong showing by our defense, as they also scored three goals," remarked assistant coach Megan Doerr. "Our sophomore goalie had her best game of the season, in my opinion, and against such a talented team, it couldn't have come at a more opportune time. We played with so much poise and intensity. I think this will have a big effect on our post season play, as Needham's only loss is to us. We are an enigma in the league due to the people we have beat and had close games with. This game gives us some momentum and confidence."

The Minutemaids set the tone early when Carly Gillis broke up a potential scoring drive by Needham. Ami Karkar, who finished the half with nine incredible saves, played an excellent first half, but Needham's Gretchen Portkamer snuck one by to tie the score at two.

After Needham went up by one at the beginning of the second half to make the score 4-3, Allison Stebe scored two consecutive goals. The see-saw battle continued, as Needham's Garlick scored again. Emily Edmonston's goal made the score 6-5, Lexington. A goal by Mariam Levy and another by Sarah Goldfine gave Lexington an 8-7 lead.

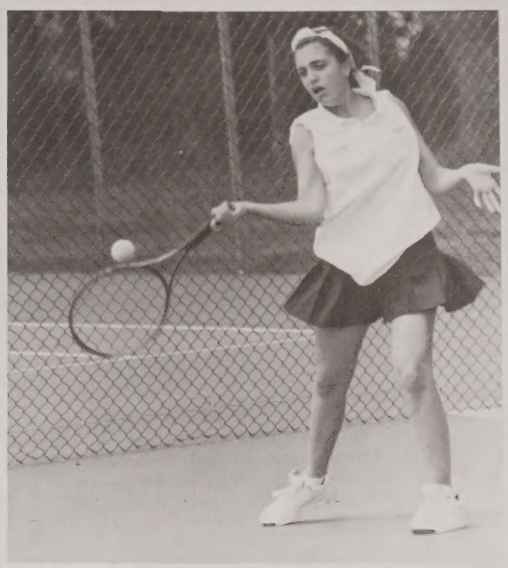
Margeaux Herman scored the deciding goal on a nifty pass from Nemser, giving the Minutemaids a two goal advantage, 9-7. Lexington never looked back, as the defense then became the proverbial "thorn in the side" of Needham. Alice Lin, Herman, Levy, Brooke Alloway, and Edmonston all registered interceptions in the contest.

"We played intensely yet calmy, which enabled us to win," said goalie Ami Karkar.

Lexington's hard work was rewarded with a pair of wins over Milton and Billerica. With a little experience, the Minutemaids can do a lot of damage in the playoffs.

Senior Pam Roffi looks to make a pass.

photo by Dan Myung



Senior Arina Zohrabian hits a menacing forehand to her opponent.

-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios

Girls' Tennis Looks for 2nd in League

by Arina Zohrabian

With the regular season soon coming to a close, the players on the girls' tennis team are refining their skills in preparation for the post season . They have played tough in hopes that they will place second in the Middlesex League, thereby improving their chances for a high seed in the state tournament.

Unfortunately, a close battle versus Burlington has put the Minutemaids into the third spot. Both Arina Zohrabian (7-6, 6-3) and Dina Guth (6-4, 6-3) lost their matches at first and second singles, respectively, to put Lexington in the hole, 2-0. The Minutemaids were able to tie the match at 2-2 with great wins by third singles sensation Leela Ramnath (6-0, 6-0) and the first doubles team consisting of Tessa Randall and Jasmeen Spidle (7-6, 6-2). With only second doubles left, the whole team attentively watched as senior Alissa Roeder and junior Alicia Cabrera battled their way into three sets. After three long hours, the girls succumbed, losing in three sets, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6.

"The battle has only begun," said Roeder, who is hungry to avenge the loss. "We were able to come back from a 5-1 deficit to 5-4, but it just wasn't our day."

The team has been able to bounce back from their disappointment with 5-0 wins over Stoneham and Melrose and 4-1 wins over Woburn and Belmont.

Playing at first singles against Stoneham, senior Arina Zohrabian won 6-2, 6-3
against a strong first singles player. Freshman Dina Guth breezed by her second singles opponent, 6-1, 6-3, as did third singles player Leela Ramnath, who won 6-4, 6-2. Although they were shaken by the wind, both doubles team were able to dominate. Senior Tessa Randall and junior Jasmeen Spidle won their match 6-4, 6-2. Senior Alissa Roeder had a new partner, junior Amber Moore, at second doubles and better results too as they beat up the Stoneham team, 6-2, 6-3. Lexington's JV team also dominated over their opponents, as they easily beat the Stoneham girls.

"The battle has only begun. We were able to come back from a 5-1 deficit to 5-4, but it just wasn't our day."

-Senior Alissa Roeder

The road into the tournament doesn't get any easier for the Minutemaids, as they face Burlington again. That match could determine the pecking order in the Middlesex League, as well as the seedings in the playoffs.

Track Teams Off and Running

by Emily Wanderer and Betsy O'Neill

After a disheartening loss to Reading earlier in the season, the girls' track team is back on its feet and in a big way. At the State Coaches' Relays, the Minutemaids scored 77 points and held off perennial powerhouse Newton North, who had 68.5 points, to capture the Class A crown.

The team was led by junior Grace Licorish, who competed in long jump and captured three gold medals. The Minutemaids' depth in many positions, particularly the middle distances, proved dividends as Lexington won its first title ever.

Of course, the 'Maids didn't do so shabbily in the dual league season, either. After the loss to Reading, Lexington has a perfect 7-0 record. The latest victims were Burlington and Woburn.

The Woburn meet started with a victory in the 300 hurdles, but again the girls showed what team depth means, capturing second and third. Quad-captain Betsy O'Neill and junior Carolyn Shank did their usual outstanding work in the hurdles. Shank tied a league record, recording a time of 15.5 in the 100 hurdles.

Lexington's distance crew also showed their strength in the 800 meters, mile and two mile. Quad-captain Chi-An Wang and junior Leslie King have been reigning in the 800.

At the State Coaches meet, the boys and girls both had to battle the torrential rain as well as the other opponents. Both teams came back home with successful individual and team results.

The girls' 4x800 relay team, consisting of King, Humphrey, Johansson and quadra-captain Sarah Day placed fifth overall with a time of 10:02.1. Junior Grace Licorish also had a terrific day, taking first in the long jump with a leap of 16-8.75. Licorish also turned in a 12.6 in the 100 meter dash, good for third in the state. Junior Josh Muller also came in third in the open 400, recording a time of 51.2. David Kaminsky placed six in the pole vault (10 feet) and the boys' 4x800 team, consisting of Muller, sophomore Nick Roetter, junior Steve Kerr, and senior tri-captain Aaron Adler, finished third with a time of 8:22.8, only 4 seconds behind first place.

Although the boys' team had success at the State Coaches meet, they have been struggling in the dual meet season. Their record stands at 5-4 after a tough loss to Woburn, a meet in which key runners were missing. The Minutemen have also had to deal with the loss of many runners to other sports.

"We've had some really close meets," said Adler. "It's disappointing to be 5-4, but we've had many good performances, and we improved from last year."

Varsity Scoreboard

As of May 21, 1997

Track	**Baseball....10-6**
Boys'....5-4	**Softball....11-3**
Girls'....8-1	
Lacrosse	**Tennis**
Boys'....8-6	**Boys'....14-1**
Girls'....8-4	**Girls'....12-3**

Boys' Tennis Knocks Off Opponent Winchester

by Jon Behar

The boys' tennis team went into its second match against Winchester knowing it had to win in order to keep its hopes of a league title alive. With Lexington's number one player, senior Fabien "Enigma" Rabanal, hurt, the Minutemen had lost to the Sachems in the first match of the traditional rivalry. However, with a healthy Rabanal leading the way, the Gold Team won the rematch of the league's top two teams, 4-1. As a result, the team poised itself for a shot at the League title.

Lexington's task was made harder because the match was being played at Winchester. Rabanal won decisively, 6-4, 6-2. Senior Owen "Wonderbread" Patrick and junior Nick "Tex" Nagao completed the singles sweep by pulling out tough three set wins at second and third singles respectively. In doubles, Lexington's first team of seniors "Sloop" Jon Behar and Dave "I hate my nickname" Kong won in what spectator Dave Schwartz called a "dominating performance." Winchester's sole win came in a tightly contested second doubles match, managing to beat juniors Mike Sciarretta and Kevin Chen 5-7, 6-2, 7-5. Winchester and Lexington each have one loss now, and seem poised to share the title.

Lexington has been strong at every position throughout the season and has received strong contributions from sophomore Josh "Guru" Leopold at third singles.

"We have four experienced seniors who know what it takes to win. We have a great chance to go a long way in states."

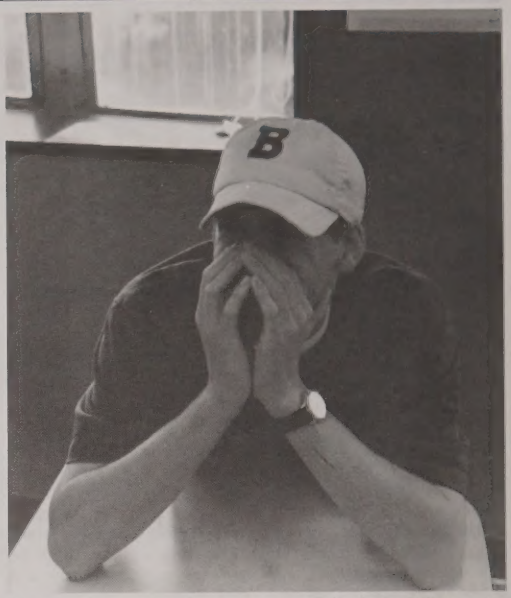
-Senior Jon Behar

Lexington rolled through the rest of the Middlesex League. Melrose, Stoneham, Watertown, Wakefield, Belmont, Burlington, and Stoneham all posed little trouble. Lexington won a pivotal match against Reading at home to establish the Minutemen's intentions of making the run for the league title a two horse race. Lexington's 4-1 victory over powerful Winchester sent a strong statement to the league and possible opponents in the tournament.

Because of inclement weather, a second match against Reading, this time on the Rockets' home turf, still remains to be played. It should be the most strongly contested match for Lexington through the rest of the regular season.

Following the end of the regular season, the team will prepare for the state tournament. After a disappointing second round loss to Winchester last year, the team is confident in a high seed and a strong showing in this year's tourney.

"We have four experienced seniors who know what it takes to win. We have a great chance to go a long way in states," said Behar.



Hey Owen! No need to hide, because you've just beaten Winchester! Unfortunately, league all-star Patrick could only smile.

-photo by Dan Myung

"Sophomore Tom Bellini is really attractive," says senior Pete Holmes

-courtesy of ***Burlington Studios***

Baseball Team Bounces Back, Primed for Playoffs

by Alex Sherman

Fresh off a 7-0 shut out of Stoneham, a win which qualified them for the playoffs, the varsity baseball team looks ready to make its move into the post season.

Lexington has shown that they have the desired qualities of championship teams. The first characteristic is resilience. Lexington has showed all year that they can make up tow, three, four, or even five run deficits in an inning or less. Although the Minutemen have trailed early in many contests, they have come back to win in dramatic fashion. Lexington got down early to Woburn but hung on to win by a run. Then, after two disappointing losses, Lexington bounced back with a come from behind victory over Winchester.

In the victory over the Sachems, Lexington got down 3-0 in the first. However, a five run third inning and a three run sixth gave the Minutemen a 9-5 win.

"All year long, the kids have responded well. They get down early, but it doesn't seem to interfere with their ability to come back and score runs," said Coach Tom O'Grady. He continued, "I'd like to get a lead for once and see what that'd be like!"

"All year long, the kids have responded well...I am very happy with everyone on the roster and their efforts this year."

-Coach Tom O'Grady

Lexington also has another quality which goes a long way in the playoffs—defense. Senior Gavin McDonough has been rock solid at third base all year. As an added bonus, Lexington's outfield combination of Eric Armstrong, Eric Kelley, and Ben Bines is one of the league's best defensively.

A third, and possibly, the most important quality that Lexington demonstrates is the ability to hit in the clutch. Almost every player has stepped up with a timely hit when the team has needed it this season. In addition, Lexington bats can catch fire at any point in the game, and the team can string together consecutive hits for a very big inning.

"I am very happy with everyone on the roster and their efforts this year," said O'Grady. "We've had some kids that have really been big pluses for us this year, especially hitting wise. Tom Bellini has been solid throughout the year...and when one person doesn't seem to be getting it done one day, someone else steps up. It's a great team this year, overall."

Lexington lost a tough 6-3 rematch to an undefeated Reading team but bounced back with a 7-0 win over Stoneham, avenging a loss earlier in the season. The team must still face Burlington.

Softball Aiming For Tournament

by David Ly

The Lexington girls' softball team is quietly going about with this horrible habit- they keep winning. After a 12-1 thrashing of Watertown and a pair of 5-3 wins over Reading and Stoneham, the Minutemaids are sitting high with a 11-3 record and battling for position in the post season tournament.

"We're right where I expected to be," said coach Karen Boudreau. "I expected to be in the hunt with Reading behind Woburn, and that's where we are."

All around, the team has been very solid. However, don't expect to see girls all down to business. They're not only winning, but they're also enjoying themselves.

"This is a fun and loose bunch," said senior quad-captain Lindsay Bonner. "Everyone is excited about having fun, and it's making a difference with the batting."

Bonner and junior pitcher Kara McManus have been the primary beneficiaries. They have had plenty of help behind them, as Lexington is batting .340 as a team. Bonner and McManus have not been too shabby either, as they have compiled 4-1 and 4-2 records, respectively.

"This is a fun and loose bunch. Everyone is excited about having fun, and it's making a difference with the batting."

-Senior quad-captain Lindsay Bonner

The heart of the lineup includes junior Andrea Pawlicek, who has a .400 average and 7 RBI, and clean-up hitter Sarah Dailey, who is batting a sizzling .514 (19/37) with five doubles and 18 RBI. Amy Seaquist (.394, 13/33), hitting in the fifth spot, is also doing a solid job.

"They have great chemistry," said Boudreau. "Everyone loves the game."

The Minutemaids brought back eight returning letterwomen from last year's tournament team, while three are newcomers to the varsity squad. Lexington is not the fastest team, but they are smart on the base paths. However, the addition of speedy sophomore Kristen Hopwood has been a pleasant surprise to the team.

The Blue and Gold face some tough challenges before heading into the post-season, as they must face the three teams that have already beaten them. They have cleared one hurdle by beating a tough Reading team, but they must face Burlington and Woburn in consecutive games that will end the regular season.

Junior Brook Coffman throws a softball.

-photo by Dave Ly